UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1107
11 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

REGIONAL SEMINAR TO REVIEW THE SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF ISLAND TERRITORIES, TO BE HELD WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Guidelines and rules of procedure

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a Plan of Action "aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", in which, inter alia, it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to "organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts".

2. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 calling for coordinated assistance of the specialized agencies to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly states that "in addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

I. PLACE AND DATES OF THE SEMINAR

3. The regional Seminar for the Caribbean area will be held in Grenada from 17 to 19 June 1992.

II. PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR

4. The Seminar would mainly address economic and social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean region and identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and development and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure the viable and sustainable development of the Territories concerned.

5. The topics to be considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee in focusing its attention on the specific concerns of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this connection, the Seminar will give pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It will also secure the participation of the

administering Powers, of special guests, particularly personalities who are actively involved in the economic, social and political development of the region, and of organizations and institutions which focus on such development; and, of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories. Special emphasis will also be placed on the participation of specialized agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to formulating specific recommendations to enhance the social and economic development of those Territories.

6. The contributions of all participants will serve as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will assist the Special Committee in its future consideration of the remaining Territories.

7. In this connection, participants will be required to consider the submission of remarks and suggestions on the following topics as they pertain to Non-Self-Governing Territories in the list of the Committee:

(a) The problems of small, structurally open economies: heavy dependence on imports, a limited number of commodities and highly restricted internal markets;

(b) Food production: development of small-scale agricultural activities, and of fisheries;

(c) Development of tourism: its impact on the economic and social sectors, and on the environment;

(d) Development of offshore financial centres in the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the region: positive and negative aspects;

(e) Addressing the issue of drug trafficking and money laundering;

(f) Development of financial management expertise and of skills necessary to negotiate and manage foreign investments; gaining access to adequate information systems;

(g) Development of industries and of indigenous technological capacities; and manufacturing for export;

(h) Human resources development and the consequences of emigration and immigration;

(i) Implications for the island Territories of environmental issues such as global warming and its consequences, including rising sealevels;

(j) Local efforts in national disaster preparedness: institutionalization and coordination of disaster relief; financing of public works projects; and training for disaster prevention;

(k) International and regional cooperation in order to mitigate the effects of natural disasters: provision of assistance and coordination of relief preparedness and prevention;

(l) Questions relating to the Law of the Sea and the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the region;

(m) The role of the specialized agencies, international organizations and regional organizations in the economic and social development of the Territories;

(n) Access of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the region to programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of identifying areas in which technical and other assistance could be provided;

(o) Particular areas in which regional cooperation requires strengthening both by the Territories concerned and international agencies: preservation and protection of marine resources from over-exploitation; sea and air transport; disaster preparedness and relief; higher education; research and development; and regional pooling arrangements for sharing special skills and expertise.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

8. The following provisions will govern the organization of the Seminar:

(a) The Seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedures contained in the annex to the present report;

(b) The Seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chairman and five other members;

(c) The Seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of the host Government;

(ii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iii) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(iv) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(v) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vi) Special guests, particularly personalities who are actively involved in the economic, social and political development of the region;

(vii) Representatives of non-governmental organizations based in the region;

(viii) Journalists.

Annex

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Preamble

The Regional Seminar is being held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991. The organization of the Seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. a/

Rule 1

Responsibility for conducting the Seminar

The Seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, as the Chairman, with the assistance of the Bureau of the Seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2

Officers of the Seminar

(a) The Chairman shall appoint four Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur for the Seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. The Vice-Chairmen will be allocated specific responsibilities by the Chairman. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Seminar.

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions.

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, one of the Vice-Chairmen shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3

Agenda of the Seminar

The Regional Seminar shall focus on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to the remaining Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned and on issues relating to specific problems of small island Territories as a means of, inter alia, disseminating information on decolonization (see also para. 7 of the above report).

Rule 4

Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the Seminar.

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the Seminar.

Rule 5

Languages

(a) The working languages of the Seminar shall be English and French.

(b) Statements made in either of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language.

(c) A person participating in the Seminar may make a statement in a language other than the working languages, on the condition that the text of such statement is made available in advance in one of the working languages.

Rule 6

Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall be entitled to vote.

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the Seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the Seminar.

Rule 7

Participation in the Seminar

Participation in the Seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly b/ and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman (see also para. 8 of the above report).

Rule 8

Debates and publicity concerning the Seminar

(a) The meetings of the Seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private.

(b) Statements on behalf of the Seminar to information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for dissemination of information on the Seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering Seminar meetings held in public.

(c) Participating non-governmental organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 7 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the Seminar.

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the list closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 9

Records

The Seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

Rule 10

Report

The members of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall adopt a report on the Seminar, the draft of which shall be prepared by the Rapporteur of the Seminar. The Seminar shall entrust to the Chairman of the Special Committee the task of preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on the basis of the information contained in the report. The report of the Seminar, as well as the draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Chairman, shall be submitted to the Special Committee for its consideration and subsequent submission to the appropriate body (bodies).

Notes

a/ A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1.

b/ A/46/634/Rev.1, para. 22 (c).